

[3 August, 2001]

RAJYA SABHA

July, 2001 states that the report could not be published due to unavoidable helplessness; and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) to (e) In the Final Report of the Enquiry conducted by Commissioner of Railway Safety, Southern Circle, the cause of the accident was established as "Due to the express train having been hit by a tornado" which struck the bridge just as the train was going over it. The accident was classified as "Sudden convulsion of Nature". Government, thereafter, ordered setting up of an Expert Committee consisting of eminent scientists and engineers under the Chairmanship of Air Marshal C.S. Nair to go into the accident. The Expert Committee did not find the findings of Commissioner of Railway Safety as tenable. The Committee, however, could not arrive at any particular reason being responsible for the accident. The report was accepted by Ministry of Railway and tabled in both the Houses of Parliament in March, 1990. The Government had decided not to publish the Commissioner of Railway Safety's Inquiry Report.

Theft of luggage of rail passengers

†1509. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incidents of theft of luggage of rail passengers are increasing continuously;

(b) if so, whether Government have taken any step so far to check such incidents; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir. The

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

information available with this Ministry indicates that the cases of theft are showing a decreasing trend.

(b) and (c) "Policing" being a State subject, prevention of crime on railways including running trains is the Constitutional responsibility of the State Governments. However, the Railways have taken the following steps to check crime.

1. Regular Coordination Meetings are held between the Railways and the Police Authorities to ensure adequate security to the passengers.
2. Anti-social elements are removed from Railway premises and the trains by Railway personnel.
3. Exchange of intelligence on crime and criminality is done between the Railways and the Police Authorities.
4. Announcements through Public Address System and CCTV are made at important Railway stations to alert the travelling public against theft etc.
5. Accommodation is provided to the Government Railway Police personnel for escorting the trains. Accommodation is also provided to the Mobile Police Stations.

Conversion of Silchar to Jiribam rail line

1510. SHRI W. ANGOU SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether funds have been allotted for converting the meterguage rail line from Silchar to Jiribam/Mangour to broadguage in the year 2001-2002; if not, the reasons therefor; and

(b) by when the work is likely to start and how long it would take to complete it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) and (b) It has been decided to take up gauge conversion of Silchar-Jiribam line as a part of Lumding-Silchar gauge conversion project. An outlay of Rs. 40 cr.